

1. A computing architecture, comprising:
2 a base operating system (OS); and
at least one virtual OS environment within the base OS, the virtual OS
4 environment having a file system and registry which is independent of the base OS.

2. The computing architecture of claim 1, wherein the base OS is Windows®
2 or is Windows®-compatible.

3. The computing architecture of claim 1, further including at least one
2 application running under the virtual OS environment, and wherein the application shares
one or more of the following with the base OS:

4 networking information,
user login rights,
6 services,
hardware information, and
8 clipboard information.

4. The computing architecture of claim 1, further including multiple virtual
2 OS environments within a single operating system (OS), and wherein a change made in
one of the virtual OS environments does not affect the main OS or any other virtual OS
4 environment.

5. The computing architecture of claim 1, wherein each virtual OS
2 environment contains a group of installed applications that run independently of each
another.

6. The computing architecture of claim 1, further including one or more
2 applications running under the base OS and each virtual OS environment, and wherein all
of the applications run on a single OS desktop.

7. The computing architecture of claim 1, wherein changes made to
2 configuration information with respect to a virtual OS environment does not change
configuration information associated with the base OS.

8. A method of configuring a computer with a base operating system (OS)
2 having a base OS file system and registry, the method comprising the steps of:
creating at least one virtual OS environment under the base OS, each virtual OS
4 environment having file system and registry locations which are independent of the base
OS file system and registry locations.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the step of installing at least one
2 application program under the virtual OS environment; and
wherein attempts to access the base OS file system and registry locations are
4 instead redirected to the virtual OS environment file system or registry.

10. The method of claim 9, further including the step of altering one or more
2 application programming interfaces (APIs) that access the base OS file system and
registry directly and indirectly so as to redirect these accesses into the appropriate virtual
4 OS environment file system and registry.

11. The method of claim 10, further including the step of injecting a DLL into
2 every application that is executed.